

# Notice of Request for Proposal: Michigan Drilling Project

## Procurement Package Folder

[2026-15-EXP-00033 - Michigan Drilling](#)

## Scope of the Procurement Package

### 1. PROJECT OVERVIEW

Houghton Battery Minerals LLC (HBM), an indirect subsidiary of Talon Metals Corp., is soliciting bids for an approximately 25,000 foot surface diamond core drilling program in Baraga and Marquette Counties, Michigan. Drilling may occur at two (2) to four (4) separate locations. Two (2) track-mounted diamond core rigs are required. Holes will be drilled HQ to 2,500 feet and reduced to NQ to a maximum total depth of 3,000 feet. Average hole depths are expected to range between 1,000 and 1,650 feet. Re-entering existing holes to deepen them may be required. All work must comply with Michigan EGLE Part 625 and all applicable regulations.

### 2. HEALTH, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT (HSE)

The Contractor shall conduct all operations in a safe and workmanlike manner, maintain a site-specific safety program, conduct pre-shift safety meetings and inspections, and maintain up-to-date emergency response procedures appropriate for the work. HBM personnel will regularly inspect drill sites and equipment to verify that safety and environmental risks are adequately mitigated while working collaboratively with Contractor personnel to ensure a safe workplace.

All personnel must complete a Project Operational and Safety Induction prior to beginning work at the Project. The Contractor shall ensure personnel are trained and competent to meet safety requirements, procedures, and policies appropriate for their work area. Basic first aid and CPR certification of crew members is preferred.

The Contractor shall use and store hydrocarbons and other hazardous materials in a manner that prevents spills to the environment while minimizing fire risks. The drill rig and all hydrocarbon storage locations must be fully contained while operating to prevent any hydrocarbon or hazardous material spill from contacting the ground surface. All spills shall be reported to HBM by the end of the shift in which they occurred, regardless of whether the spill was caught in containment.

Intersecting gas in the borehole while drilling at the project is possible. The Contractor shall provide three gas monitors per drill rig. One monitor will be operational at all times on site, properly maintained, and sampling for H<sub>2</sub>S/ O<sub>2</sub>/CH<sub>4</sub>/CO. Monitors must be bump tested at beginning of every shift. The Contractor shall post a written procedure at the drill describing operation and use of the monitor and protocol for gas encounters in the hole.

Each drill rig must have a hydraulically operated core press to be used for removal of core from core tubes. The press will be always used for core removal from tubes.

The drilling area is remote with unreliable cellular phone signal coverage. Contractor will provide a satellite internet connection at the drill rig to be used for emergency and routine communications as well as upload of data to HBM's cloud system. Secondly, Contractor will provide a reliable satellite based mobile communication device in each vehicle for the purpose of emergency communication when travelling to/from the drill site. An In-Reach or similar device is suitable.

The following documentation must be submitted with the bid:

- Corporate HSE Policy

- Site-Specific Safety Program Summary
- EMR (last 3 years)
- OSHA Recordable Statistics (last 3 years)
- Emergency Response Plan
- Proof of Liability Insurance to \$5 million

### **3. DRILL CORE PRODUCTION REQUIREMENTS**

HBM expects efficient production of drill core on each shift were drilling occurs (excluding time allotted to client directed moves, surveys, etc). Rates of drill hole advance should be appropriate to minimize hole deviation and maximize high quality core recovery.

Drill core will be oriented using industry proven core orientation tools with drill crew placing accurate, legible orientation marks on core in every run. Contractor to provide core orientation tooling.

HBM may require Contractor crews to apply additional marks to the core and photograph the core at the rig. Core will be provided to client clean with run blocks accurately labelled in feet.

Drill core will be delivered to the L'Anse Core Shed once per day at minimum.

HBM will supply cardboard core boxes and photographic equipment.

### **4. PERSONNEL & SUPERVISION REQUIREMENTS**

The base of operations will be L'Anse, Michigan, and crew accommodations should be located in or near L'Anse. The Contractor is responsible for providing local accommodations and subsistence for all personnel. All personnel must be trained, qualified, fit for duty, and compliant with HBM site requirements. While off duty, Contractor personnel must always act in a professional and respectful manner to support HBM's reputation in the local community.

### **5. PROJECT SCHEDULE**

The anticipated project time frame is May 15 through November 15, 2026. Drilling operations shall be conducted on a continuous basis, twenty-four (24) hours per day, seven (7) days per week (24/7). Each rig must operate with a minimum three (3) person crew per shift. A dedicated Drilling Supervisor shall be onsite during active drilling operations.

### **6. MOBILIZATION & PROJECT MOVES**

The Contractor is responsible for mobilization and demobilization to and from the project area. HBM will provide trucking by a local contractor for drill rigs and major equipment between project locations.

### **7. SITE ACCESS & DRILL SITES**

The project area is remote with most access routes on County roads. Where private roads or trails are utilized, HBM will provide access to the drill sites suitable for pickup trucks. Travel time from L'Anse to drill sites will range from approximately 20 minutes to 1 hour depending on location.

The Contractor shall utilize track-mounted rigs configured to operate within small drill site footprints to minimize surface disturbance. Minimum pad size requirements must be included in the bid submission and should be no larger than 120 feet by 120 feet.

HBM maintains a Field Office, Core Shed, and Laydown Yard in L'Anse, MI which the Contractor may use for temporary storage of equipment. If needed, laydown areas will be designated in the field for temporary storage of equipment or supplies that do not fit on the drill site.

HBM will provide portable toilets at or near the drill sites.

## **8. SURFACE CASING AND HOLE ABANDONMENT**

Overburden depths are expected to range from 10 feet to 120 feet. Surface casing will be installed into bedrock and bentonite pumped into the annulus to surface before coring begins.

Surface casing will be provided by HBM.

Contractor may be required to abandon drill holes by tremie line grouting with neat cement then remove surface casing. Drill rods may be used as the tremie line.

## **9. DRILL CUTTINGS MANAGEMENT AND WATER USAGE**

A closed-loop mud system with cuttings separation process is required. A centrifuge is the preferred equipment for separating cuttings from drilling fluid and is expected to be used during all drilling operations unless otherwise approved by HBM.

Michigan EGLE regulations require all cuttings and fluid be contained and hauled off site when drilling rock that contains sulphide minerals. However, sumps may be used to dispose of cuttings and fluid at the drill site when drilling rock without sulphide minerals.

HBM personnel will advise the Contractor when to implement the drilling waste protocol for drilling rock with sulphide minerals. When doing so, HBM will provide temporary storage tanks and bins where the Contractor will deposit cuttings and used water in a manner that prevents release to the environment. HBM will be responsible for removing drilling-related rock waste and disposing of it in a licensed facility.

Water for drilling will be sourced from local streams. A water hauling truck with pump is required. Drilling fluid recirculation is required to minimize water usage. Once used water is available on site, make-up water shall preferentially be taken from storage tanks before withdrawing additional volumes from surface sources.

Water taken from surface sources (streams) shall be treated with chlorine to achieve potability prior to introduction into the bore hole in compliance with EGLE Part 625 requirements. The Contractor shall comply with all applicable water withdrawal, treatment, and reporting requirements under Michigan regulations.

## **10. BORE HOLE SURVEYING**

The Contractor shall perform drill hole orientation surveys at HBM's direction, typically once per 12-hour shift. HBM will provide a north-seeking gyro orientation survey tool for the Contractor's use.

Bore hole geophysical surveys will be conducted on most drill holes. In some cases, surveys may be run from the drill rig platform using HBM personnel. The Contractor shall coordinate and work safely with HBM survey crews. A survey standby rate shall be provided and applicable during such operations.

## **Schedule**

1. Due date for submission – 11 May 2026 by 5:30pm EST
2. Period of performance: June 1 to Nov 15, 2026.
3. The submissions will be opened on 12 May 2026 starting at 10:30am EST by a Selection Committee comprising:
  - o Steve Hovis
  - o Brian Goldner
  - o Vince Conte

- George Zugel

## Additional Details

1. Minimum qualifications of vendor (if any)-
  - EMR <1.1
  - Business in operation and providing diamond core drilling services for >10 years
2. Required content/format of the proposals/bids  
Bidders shall provide footage rates for each hole diameter with hourly rates for operating, standby, supervisor, and survey standby, casing installation and casing removal. Any additional pricing for use of closed-loop mud system including centrifuge. Daily rates for support equipment (water truck, skidsteer, etc). Lump sum mobilization and demobilization charge for each rig, support equipment, and crews.
3. Bidder Communication Requirements
  - All potential vendors must refrain from CC/BCC or directly contacting any other Talon personnel regarding the scope of work until a vendor has been formally selected.
  - Interpretation of written bid or proposal specifications shall not be made to prospective bidders or proposers. Any questions related to the RFP/sealed bid request must be made via email and directed to Emma Van Guilder ([vanguilder@talonmetals.com](mailto:vanguilder@talonmetals.com)) (not the requesting department). Any violation of this requirement will result in disqualification. Potential vendors are not permitted to contact the requesting department directly. All potential bidders will receive the same information.
  - All bids should be transmitted to Talon via [vanguilder@talonmetals.com](mailto:vanguilder@talonmetals.com). Bids may include links to additional files, when applicable, which Talon will download and include in the bid package during its assessment process. Bidders cannot grant anyone else from Talon or its partners access to the bid.
4. The response must specify a guaranteed unit price.
5. Statement on the proposal/bid opening process and non-acceptance of late submissions.
  - All proposers/bidders must include a statement within their proposal/bid certifying that they are not suspended or debarred from participating in US government contracts, subcontracts, loans, grants, and other assistance programs. By submitting a proposer/bid, vendors are certifying that they understand the regulations included in the 2 CFR Section 200.214 (Uniform Guidance) and that their company is not currently suspended or debarred. Late submissions will not be considered.

## Notice Approved by

Vince Conte

/s/ Vince Conte

Chief Financial Officer

## Evaluation and Award Criteria and Specifications

Criteria	Weight	Vendor Score (1 = low, 5 = high)	Total	Notes
Quality of HSE Policy and effectiveness of implementation with drill crews.	0.2		0	
Low OSHA Recordable Statistics	0.15		0	
Low Workman's Comp Insurance EMR	0.15		0	
Type of drill offered.	0.05			
Availability of drill rigs and crews.	0.2		0	
Bid meets overall requirements of the SOW.	0.25			
Total	100%	0	0	